



STATE BOARD OF HEALTH BRIEFING FOOD SERVICE RULE REVISION JANUARY 14, 2004

Background

The State Board of Health (SBOH) initiated a major revision of Chapter 246-215 WAC, Food Service, at their November 2001 meeting. The Department of Health (DOH) formed an advisory workgroup to recommend whether the FDA Model Food Code or the existing state rule should be used as the base document for our future food rules. Initial meetings of the workgroup were held in January and March 2002 in Seattle, Spokane, and Kent. The workgroup reached almost unanimous agreement in March that the Food Code was the best document to use as a base for the rule revision.

Comments regarding modifications to the Food Code were solicited by DOH from all stakeholders in late spring of 2002. A Core Workgroup and five special issue subcommittees of stakeholders met to review the comments and make recommendations to DOH. One of the subcommittees split into four sub-subcommittees to discuss issues not addressed in the Food Code. The Core Workgroup completed their first review of stakeholder comments and subcommittee recommendations in June 2003. Based on Core Workgroup recommendations, DOH prepared a first draft of the proposed rule revision.

Core Workgroup

Membership limited to workable total of 15:

- 3 Restaurant representatives
- 2 Food market representatives (rotating representation)
- 1 Food worker representative
- 1 School food service representative
- 5 Local health jurisdiction representatives
(Tacoma-Pierce, Spokane, Seattle-King, Chelan-Douglas, and Mason)
- 1 DOH Facilities Services & Licensing representative
- 1 Department of Social and Health Services representative (*dropped out*)
- 1 Consumer representative (WSU Cooperative Extension)

Food Service Rule Revision Workshops for First Draft

DOH held 18 workshops in September 2003 in order to gain public input on the first draft of the proposed rule revision. The workshops gave an opportunity for anyone to make comments on the proposed draft. Total attendance at the workshops was 178. Additional comments were received by e-mail, regular mail, and telephone. The Core Workgroup reviewed those comments at meetings in October and November 2003. A second draft of the proposed rule revision is being prepared.